Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council  
February 18, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Present:  

Staff:  Brian Wolcott, Steven Patten, Wendy Harris, Troy Baker, Will Lewis, Chris Sheets, and Graham Banks.

Guests:  Jon Brough, Kevin Lindsey, Molly Reid, Teresa Kilmer and Jack Esp.

Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Vern Rodighiero.

Minutes from the January 21st board meeting were approved as written.

BPA Projects Proposal due February 28th – Wendy has been putting together the 5 year work plan of irrigation water efficiency, aquifer recharge strategy implementation, and fish passage projects that will take us from 2014-2018. She showed slides of proposed projects. Wendy explained that this is BPA having to be accountable as well as the agencies they help fund. This is something new that BPA is requiring for future funding. Some of the proposed projects are: White ditch piping, Fruitvale measurable turnouts, Zell ditch diversion, Eastside pushup dam, Couse Creek fish issue, Lower Walla Walla, Property purchase of Hulette Johnson recharge site.

EPA Levee Habitat Enhancements due March 1 – Brian has been working on the 2013 Scope of Work and 2014 project proposals for EPA. The projects are Zell fish passage, Tum-A-Lum levee setback assessment, side channel enhancements and Bolen-Kelly designs. The levee setback proposal will let the river meander more and the tribes seem excited about this proposal. Concern was raised about the contents of the Eastside pits should they be used in future recharge projects. Brian also talked about reactivating the side channels between cemetery bridge and nursery bridge for the fish and it would also take energy from the river and serve as natural recharge. Ed wanted to know if there were any projects up river and Brian told him that Pat Kelly’s was being considered and also where the road is being compromised at Joe West bridge.

OWEB project proposals due April 22 – Brian asked the board if they had any ideas for OWEB proposals but no one had any at that time.

Aquifer Recharge Program Update – Steven reported updates on recharge. He has completed the Strategic Action Plan which includes our main goals, pilot projects and results, proposed plans and projected projects. This Strategic Action Plan will be on our website this week. He reported that he is just waiting on comments from ODW and barring any concerns from them, will the Limited License should get signed off on. Anspach and Trumbull recharge sites should be turned on in early March and the Barrett and Umapine sites as soon as they are constructed. He wants to develop sites in the lower Little Walla Walla, east and west sides. He has been
looking at sites closer to the river to hopefully see seepage rates go down. We have data loggers in all wells where possible. On the Washington side he has been considering the possibility of increasing the size of Still pond, but water quality testing is an issue. We just have to prove the water quality is the same or better. WDOE wants steps formalized for testing before we go ahead with new projects.

**Announcements** – Umatilla tribes public meeting regarding the fish hatchery, Brian will advice when and where.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 p.m

Next Meeting: March 18th at the Rotary Room, Milton-Freewater Community Building, 5th Ave. and Ward St, 7:00-8:30 p.m.